

*Application no. 10/770,517
Amendment dated August 4, 2005
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 19 have been rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,103,167 to Ellner ("Ellner") in view of US Patent No. 6,524,529 to Horton, III ("Horton"). Claim 1 is directed at:

An ultraviolet water treatment system comprising a water chamber having a water intake for untreated water to enter said chamber, and a water outlet for water to leave said chamber; an ultraviolet light source; and a fibre optic rod having a distributing end and a receiving end, said receiving end being located to receive said ultraviolet light from said light source and convey said light through said rod and out said distributing end into said chamber to treat said water.

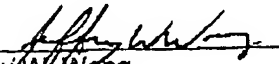
Unlike the ultraviolet liquid purification system disclosed in Ellner, the current invention is not a stand-alone unit and is designed to be fitted within an existing water plumbing system such as at a cottage or for home use. Furthermore, it would not be possible to install the system disclosed in Ellner under the sink in an individual's kitchen.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully believes that one would not combine the teachings of Ellner and Horton to arrive at the claimed invention. Ellner is directed at a stand-alone unit which requires multiple radiation lamps to provide germicidal effect to the liquid being purified. This is disclosed at column 3 lines 6 to 11. There is also a monitor which monitors the amount of germicidal treatment being provided. This suggests that the monitor tests the amount of germicidal energy which is scattered throughout the chamber. Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art would therefore not want to focus the ultraviolet light from the ultraviolet lamps by using optical elements (or an optical rod) but would allow the lamps to simply provide as much energy as possible. As described in Applicant's application, since the location of the ultraviolet light is away from the water being treated, the use of the optical rod allows for the light to be more focused on the water in the chamber which would not be required in Ellner. Therefore Applicant respectfully submits that one would not combine the teachings of Ellner and Horton to arrive at Applicant's invention.

Also, neither Ellner nor Horton disclose the use of a ventilation fan which is used to cool the chamber within which the ultraviolet lamp is located. Due to the amount of heat which is generated by the ultraviolet light, the fan allows for the chamber to cool thereby reducing the chance of damage to Applicant's ultraviolet water system. Retraction of Examiner's rejection of claims 1 to 19 is respectfully requested.

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In view of the arguments set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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